

ACADEMIC PREFIXES (verbs)

Vocabulary – Word Building

Prefixes are added to the beginnings of words in order to change the form of a word, or added to convey a meaning, mostly an opposite connotation. Prefixes are added to the front of the base (like - dislike) and they do not usually change the base word.

Prefixes combine with words to create new meanings.

1. *Pre + View = Preview (first look)*

2. *Super + Star = Superstar (top player)*

There are different types of prefixes, they may affect or change a verb, a noun or an adjective.

The most common prefixes used to form new verbs in academic English are: *re-*, *dis-*, *over-*, *un-*, *mis-*, *out-*

VERBS

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
<i>re-</i>	again or back	restructure, revisit, reappear, rebuild, refinance
<i>dis-</i>	reverses the meaning of the verb	disappear, disallow, disarm, disconnect, discontinue
<i>over-</i>	too much	overbook, oversleep, overwork
<i>un-</i>	reverses the meaning of the verb	unbend, uncouple, unfasten
<i>mis-</i>	badly or wrongly	mislead, misinform, misidentify
<i>out-</i>	more or better than others	outperform, outbid
<i>be-</i>	make or cause	befriend, belittle
<i>co-</i>	together	co-exist, co-operate, co-own
<i>de-</i>	do the opposite of	devalue, deselect
<i>fore-</i>	earlier, before	foreclose, foresee
<i>inter-</i>	between	interact, intermix, interface
<i>pre-</i>	before	pre-expose, prejudge, pretest

<i>sub-</i>	under/below	subcontract, subdivide
<i>trans-</i>	across, over	transform, transcribe, transplant
<i>under-</i>	not enough	underfund, undersell, undervalue, underdevelop

Let's practice our knowledge a little bit about word formation:

1. Eduardo Luna, Colombian's caretaker president, today said that he would _____ the peso as he prepared to unveil a high-risk plan to end the country's economic turmoil. (**value**)
2. One way to learn a foreign language is to _____ with native speakers of that language. (**act**)
3. He became a watchman, was _____, but he didn't complain because he could read all the books he loved. (**pay**)
4. It would be difficult to _____ the importance of the influence of usury on the social and economic history of the Roman republic. (**estimate**)
5. Her face was flushing again, and he saw the signs she wasn't as _____ by him as he first thought. (**affect**)
6. The withered grass and the bushes were _____ into a forest of icicles. (**form**)
7. Fox _____ in parliament to take part in the vote of censure on ministers for declining Napoleon's overtures for a peace. (**appear**)
8. The city was completely destroyed and partly _____ by the great earthquake of the 28th of October 1746, in which about 6000 persons perished. (**merge**)
9. _____ the power cable from the modem, wait for approximately one minute, then reconnect the cable. (**connect**)
10. Their success depends on their patients, who often, quite unwillingly, _____ them, even mislead them. (**inform**)



Answer Key

Verbs

1. Devalue
2. Interact
3. Underpaid
4. Overestimate
5. Unaffected
6. Transformed
7. Reappeared
8. Submerged
9. Disconnect
10. Misinform